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(54) Title: CHEMICAL MECHANICAL POLISHING OF FERAM CAPACTORS

(54) Titre: POLISSAGE CHIMICO-MECANIQUE DE CONDENSATEURS AU FERAM

(57) Abstract

A method of forming a microelectronic device structure, e.g., a ferroelectric capacitor structure, using chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) for planarizing device layers. The layers may include a barrier layer (28), a bottom electrode (30), a ferroelectric layer (32), a top electrode (34), and a dielectric insulating layer (35). The barrier layer (28) may serve as a stop layer at the planarization depth in the dielectric insulating material. An insulating layer (38) may be deposited over the structure. The CMP process may include: (I) CMP medium containing components conferring beneficial properties, (II) metal and dielectric materials to be removed, (III) physical damage to microelectric device structure being removed by thermal annealing, and (IV) noble metal electrode being removed in the planarization by the CMP medium. The microelectronic device structure formed by the CMP may also include conductive lines embedded in a high magnetic permeability material.

(57) Abrégé

L'invention porte sur un procédé de création d'une structure de dispositif micro-électronique, par exemple de condensateur ferroélectrique, par un polissage chimico-mécanique (CMP) qui aplanit les couches du dispositif. Lesdites couches peuvent comporter une couche barrière (28), une électrode (30) basse, une couche ferroélectrique (32), une électrode haute (34), et une couche diélectrique isolante (35). La couche (28) barrière peut servir de couche d'arrêt au niveau de la profondeur d'aplanissement à l'intérieur du matériau isolant. On peut disposer une couche isolante (38) au-dessus de la structure. Le procédé CMP peut comporter: (I) un milieu CPM à propriétés bénéfiques, (II) le métal et les matériaux diélectriques éliminés, (III) un recuit thermique éliminant les dommages causés à la structure du dispositif micro-électronique, et (IV) l'élimination de l'électrode de métal noble au cours de l'aplanissement par le milieu CPM. La structure du dispositif micro-électronique obtenue par CPM peut également comporter des conducteurs noyés dans un matériau à forte perméabilité magnétique.

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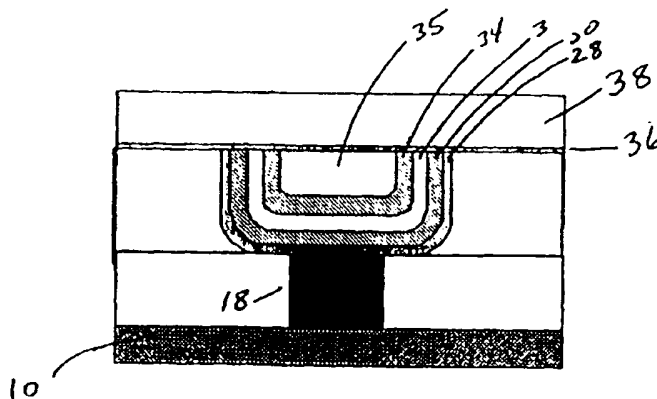
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/27754 (22) International Filing Date: 23 November 1999 (23.11.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/200,499 25 November 1998 (25.11.98) US (71) Applicant: ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY MATERIALS, INC. [US:US]; 7 Commerce Drive, Danbury, CT 06810 (US). (72) Inventors: VAN BUSKIRK, Peter, C.; 18 Poverty Hollow Road, Newtown, CT 06470 (US). RUSSELL, Michael, W.; Apartment 516, 50 Aiken Street, Norwalk, CT 06851 (US). BILLODEAU, Steven, M.; 20 Carriage Drive, Oxford, CT 06478 (US). BAUM, Thomas, H.; 2 Handol Lane, New Fairfield, CT 06812 (US). (74) Agent: ZITZMANN, Oliver, A., M.; Advanced Technology Materials, Inc., 7 Commerce Drive, Danbury, CT 06810 (US).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: JP, KR, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>

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Description

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CHEMICAL MECHANICAL POLISHING OF FERAM CAPACITORS

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to a chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) method and composition having applicability to the manufacture of ferroelectric random access memory capacitors, in which a stop layer is employed over the capacitor recess dielectric material to achieve the required planarization of the microelectronic device structure. It is also applicable to the fabrication of other integrated circuit structures, such as capacitor, resistor and inductor structures, which in utilizing multilayer geometries benefit from the inherently planarizing character of CMP.

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Description of the Related Art

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There is currently a major effort in semiconductor companies, worldwide, to commercialize high dielectric constant and ferroelectric thin films in advanced DRAMs and ferroelectric random access memories (FeRAMs), respectively. These materials include BaSrTiO₃ (BST) for DRAMs and PbZrTiO₃ (PZT) and SrBi₂Ta₂O₉ (SBT) for FeRAMs.

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It is well known that these materials require electrodes made from noble metals or noble metal alloys such as Pt, Ir, IrO₂, Pt-Ru, etc., and sub-micron patterning of both the noble metals and the ferroelectric films is very difficult because of the absence of volatile products for the elemental constituents. State-of-the-art dry etching processes for Pt and Ir are known to have fundamental difficulties due to the predominantly physical (not chemical) mechanism for material removal, resulting in formation of unwanted structures (sometimes called "ears") at the edges of the electrodes.

Besides the difficulties in patterning sub-micron capacitors of this type, for high memory density it is also important to fabricate the capacitors directly over a conductive plug to contact transistors in order to reduce the area of the memory cell. This geometry (capacitor over plug) is also known as a stack capacitor configuration. For the conventionally employed materials, e.g., polysilicon or tungsten for the plug, a barrier layer is needed to prevent oxidation of the plug and diffusion of the plug material (p-Si or W) through the noble metal bottom electrode. To overcome such problems, it is desirable to use geometric means to protect the plug/barrier/electrode interfaces from exposure to oxidation.

At present, physical vapor deposition methods and stack capacitor configurations are predominantly used for the fabrication of DRAM and FeRAM microelectronic device structures.

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An alternative to the stack capacitor is a trench capacitor, which utilizes an enhanced surface area capacitor on the walls of a trench that is etched directly into doped silicon. In such trench capacitors, the bottom electrode contact is not to a conductive plug (p-Si or W) but to the conductive substrate itself, though the requirements for the barrier are similar to the stack configuration. In trench capacitor architecture, the memory cell's transistors are formed on the surface of wafer adjacent to the top of the trench capacitor.

Ferroelectric capacitors planarized using chemical mechanical polishing are also more versatile for monolithic integration of ferroelectric memory or dynamic random access memory (DRAM) with logic IC ("embedded memory"). The 4-6 levels of metal needed for logic IC's place additional demands on the planarity of the underlying structures. Surface flatness is required in high resolution microlithography in order to stay within the aligner's specified depth of focus.

A variety of semiconductor integrated circuits utilize passive (and in some cases active) filtering techniques that use resistors, capacitors, inductors. There is an accelerating trend toward the incorporation of multiple circuit functions in a single IC, whereas in the past different IC's were fabricated and connected externally on a circuit board, or by another packaging scheme.

Given the economic and performance advantages of monolithic integration of these functions, it is highly desirable to fabricate compact RLC elements directly on the chip during fabrication of the other parts of the IC. It is essential to minimize the number of

5 processing steps as much as possible, and to achieve the highest possible yield for IC
10 devices that are manufactured.

15 By way of background to the ensuing description of the present invention, a description
is set out below of machines used in conventional CMP process operations, polishing
pads and slurry compositions used in chemical mechanical polishing.

20 Three types of mechanical, rotating actions are typically employed in conventional CMP
machines. One such type has a rotating wafer carrier. Another revolves the abrasive
pad. A third type spins both the wafer carrier and the abrasive pad simultaneously. The
25 polishing pad is pre-soaked and re-wet continuously with a slurry consisting of various
particles suspended in a solution. The polishing particles range in size from 10 to 1000
nanometers. The suspension solution generally comprises a diluted base or acid for
30 polishing oxide and metals, respectively. Upon completion of the planarization, the
wafers go through a post-CMP clean process in which the residual slurry, ground
oxide/metal particles, and other potential contaminants are removed. Most IC
35 manufacturers use a combination of de-ionized (DI) water rinses and nitrogen air drying
to accomplish the post-CMP decontamination.

40 The two most common uses of CMP are oxide and metal (tungsten) plug planarization.
The two most essential components of the CMP process are the slurry and the polishing
45 pad.

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The polishing pad, generally a polyurethane-based material, performs two primary functions. The polymeric foam cell walls of the pad aid in removal of the reaction products at the wafer surface and the pores within the pad assist in supplying the slurry to the pad/wafer interface.

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Progressively more research efforts have focused on further understanding empirical results of the intimate contact between the pad and the pre-planarization surface. Several peculiarities were originally noticed in the material removal rate (RR) as a function of time, pressure and velocity. Many CMP users noticed that the RR decreased tremendously as high throughput processes were attempted. Research showed that deformation of the pad resulted from the brittle, hard surfaces of the IC structure. The asperity of the pads, or surface roughness due to the type of material, the density of the "pockets," and abrasive characteristics, was found to decline due to pad layer removal. To alleviate this problem, called "glazing," the pad was conditioned after an experimentally determined amount of time, or wafer runs. The conditioner was composed of a base material (metal), a diamond grit (for cutting), and a grit-bonding material (Ni plating). The plating bonded the diamond grit to the base material. The conditioner then effectively removed the top layer of the pad until excess, non-desired particles were removed and the nominal surface characteristics of the pad were restored. Although this approach allowed the same pads to be used for an extended period of time, it also resulted in other complications.

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Specifically, the physical bonding of the diamonds and base material ruptured relatively easily during the conditioning process. New methods of bonding as well as enhanced post-conditioning cleaning were pursued. When the diamonds were chemically bonded to the base material, the additional strength made grit detachment less prominent. The new bonding method allowed a factor of ten more wafers to be polished with the same conditioning pads as compared to the number that were able to be polished with the physically grit-bonded pads.

Pad conditioning plays a larger role in planarization of oxide than in planarization of metals since metals tend to have a higher degree of hardness relative to the pad material.

To aid in transporting the slurry to the pad/wafer interface, new pad structures have been designed. Karaki-Doy and other developers have designed polishing pads with continuous grooves in concentric ellipses across the entire pad. This structure was found to deliver the slurry more uniformly to the interface and to augment the amount of debris removal resulting from the CMP process. Most conventional pads consist of "pockets" within the polyurethane which are prone to clogging due to the residual debris discharged during the process. Consequently, Karaki-Doy and other developers placed the grooves in the surface of the pad, and noticed an increased longevity in the conditioning-to-conditioning life of their pads over common types of pads.

Another key element in the amenability of the pad to planarize uniformly is the IC device density and relative layer heights (critical dimensions, CD) of the structure

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undergoing CMP. CMP tends to polish small, individual features faster than larger, more densely packed features. The oxide removal rate over features 15 microns in width is 60-80% greater than the oxide removal rate over features 60 microns in width. Denser or larger features tend to distribute applied load pressure over a larger area than smaller features. Since the removal rate and pressure are directly related in the direct contact mode, the removal rate decreases since the effective, local pressure decreases. The same principles apply when adjacent layers have a larger height contrast. "Taller" features will be planarized quicker, depending on other dimensions and the proximity to other devices.

The foregoing factors add complexity to IC design. If IC manufacturing processes will utilize CMP processing, device dimensions and density are critical and require close scrutiny.

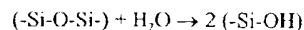
The slurry composition used in CMP comprises abrasive particles suspended in a solvent, or solution. Key factors in the effectiveness of the slurry include particle size and shape, solution pH, weight percent solids of the slurry, the quantity of the slurry delivered, and the reaction time involved.

The purpose of the slurry is simple, yet understanding and modeling all the mechanical and chemical reactions involved is extremely difficult. Essentially, the surface of the material being polished is chemically altered to a softer composition, which is then mechanically removed by the pad and slurry abrasives. Thus, the slurry provides both

5 chemical and mechanical forces in the CMP process. Oxide slurries are relatively new
and largely experimental, yet the most common are ferric nitrate with an alumina
10 abrasive and low pH. Some polysilicon and polyimide slurries exist, but are still in the
prototype and developmental stages.

15 To date, most of the research devoted to development of slurry compositions has
focused on oxide slurries instead of being directed to metal slurries. Due to the
20 numerous desirable characteristics of tungsten plugs, more attention is being directed to
development of selective metal slurries. IBM has developed metal slurries with a
tungsten:oxide selectivity of 120:1. This type of planarization is essential to the
25 fabrication of multilevel metals and interlevel connects. Ideally the slurries investigated
will produce high removal rates, high selectivity, local uniformity, and good planarity.
Since "perfect" slurries do not currently exist, inevitable trade-offs have been made in
30 evolving acceptable commercial slurry formulations.

35 Due to the chemical nature of CMP, various studies have evaluated the influence of
differing amounts of slurry introduced at the wafer/pad interface. In the case of oxide
slurries, it is believed that the water in the solution reacts with the silicon oxide in the
40 reaction as follows:



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Since water has a low diffusivity in silicon oxide, the reaction occurs primarily at the oxide interface under applied load as the abrasive particle moves across the surface. Water diffusion into the oxide results in the breaking of (network-forming) Si-O bonds and the formation of Si-OH. Once all of the Si-O bonds for a given Si atom are hydrated, $\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4$ is formed which is soluble in water. Increasing the temperature directly increases the removal rate since the diffusivity of the water rises (specifically the diffusion constant of water in oxide). The most effective pH levels for oxide planarization lie between 9.7 and 11.4.

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In the case of metal slurries, the composition is even more critical. Typical slurries incorporate an oxidizer or naturally dissolved oxygen additives to adjust pH levels, and either alumina or colloidal silica abrasives. The oxidizer changes the oxidation state of the metal and consequently produces metal ions. The top oxidized metal layer is more brittle and easily removed with the embedded abrasive particles. If the oxidation potential is too aggressive or the resulting metal compound too soluble, metal corrosion can occur as a result of wet etching. Alloys, galvanic actions, and precise oxidation states (oxidizers) are employed to slow down wet etching and limit the metal corrosion.

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Two other key issues relating to the choice of slurry deal with post-CMP clean-up and the introduction of mobile ions to the wafer. Depending on the chemical reaction, oxide slurries can introduce various contaminants to the wafer surface. In terms of particle sizes, KOH-based slurries introduce a larger quantity of 200 nanometer particles than do the NH_4OH slurries. That difference translates into a higher probability of scratches

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(e.g., up to 7 times greater, according to some studies) on the wafer surface when using the KOH slurries. NH_4OH slurries also produce a lower concentration of mobile ions than KOH-based slurries, and leave residual films that are easier to remove than the residue from KOH slurries. Environmentally, however, KOH-based slurries afford advantages over NH_4OH slurries. No ammonia smell exists when using KOH slurries, KOH slurries are less prone to settle in cleaning tanks and CMP machines, and KOH slurries are more stable in terms of pH, and less temperature dependent than NH_4OH slurries.

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Although CMP has revolutionized global planarization technology, some significant problems exist. One of the major difficulties is in-situ measuring of the amount of material removed from the wafer surface. Due to inaccurate models, many results of CMP machines are difficult to reproduce and the machines themselves do not exhibit the ability for precise process control. This also leads to difficulty in analyzing feedback, or using in-situ measurements, to make adequate and appropriate process alterations to alleviate process complications. Some CMP slurry analyzers have been designed to measure and detect particle sizes in order to ascertain the abrasive characteristics of slurries more accurately. A few endpoint detection devices, like a stylus profiler, have been developed to monitor removal rates as well. Such efforts will aid in more precisely controlling the entire CMP process, but the analysis techniques and instruments have not been developed to a state of high commercial precision.

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Thus, commercial CMP is the focus of substantial development effort, but in essence it continues to comprise the simple unit operations of:

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1. reaction of an exposed layer of material (e.g., an insulating inorganic metal oxide and/or noble metal) to produce a wafer-adhered material whose hardness is less than the hardness of the abrasive and whose adhesion to the substrate is less than the original pre-reaction layer; and

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2. removal from the substrate of the aforementioned reaction product material using a polishing slurry (abrasive medium).

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Illustrative CMP slurry compositions (by principal reaction type) for insulating inorganic metal oxides include the compositions set out below:

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A. Acidic or basic aqueous solution:

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HCl, H₂SO₄ 0.01 M or greater

KOH, NaOH, NH₄OH 0.01 M or greater

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The art has directed improvements to alkali-containing solutions via aqueous or alcohol solutions of fluorinated silicon oxide particles, specifically the use of H₂SiF₆.

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The abrasive composition comprises Al₂O₃ and/or SiO₂ aqueous solution.

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B. Oxidizing agent (with reduction potential, E_{red} , greater than IV):

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\rightarrow H_2O_2 35 vol.% or greater
nitrates, chromates, permanganates, O_3 and F_2

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The abrasive composition comprises Al_2O_3 and/or SiO_2 aqueous solution.

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C. Halogenated or pseudohalogenated material (in inert atmosphere):

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POCl_3 , SOCl_2 100% or combined with a dry solvent
(solvents, toluene, ethers, ketones, DMSO,
etc.)

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$\text{P}(\text{SCN})_3$, $(\text{SCN})_2$, $\text{S}(\text{SCN})_2$, 20-100 vol.%
 $\text{Hg}(\text{NCS})_2$, $\text{Hg}(\text{NCO})_2$, AgNCO ,
 CH_3NCO , $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{NCO}$, BrCN

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The abrasive composition comprises Al_2O_3 and/or SiO_2 aqueous solution.

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The slurry comprises a non-aqueous halogenated or pseudohalogenated reactant, and preferably includes a liquid organic ligand precursor (e.g., cyclic, acyclic, polycyclic, or

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aromatic compounds) which upon reaction with the halogenated or pseudohalogenated material form a metal-organic coordination complex which is heterocyclic.

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The occurrence of dishing or polishing flaws, particularly with the CMP of soft metals such as Al, Cu or Ag, have been mediated in part by storage/delivery of a polishing agent slurry at reduced temperatures where flocculation or precipitation of the slurry is minimized. In addition, agitation of the polishing media (to inhibit flocculation), as well as temperature and velocity control of the polishing wheel has been shown to improve CMP homogeneity.

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The CMP pad wears at an exponential rate during its initial use and then wears linearly with time. Further, the CMP pad does not remove material uniformly as the pad wears. These factors make it difficult to maintain an acceptable removal rate and uniformity in the CMP operation.

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The art continues to seek improvements in the CMP process and in the fabrication of ferroelectric devices such as FeRAMs.

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Individual spatial dimensions of the top electrode/ferroelectric material/bottom electrode (TE/FE/BE) capacitor in a typical FeRAM are on the order of 100 nm. In order to minimize damage/inhomogeneity during the CMP of this layered structure, the maximum abrasive particle size should be much less than the minimum feature size in the device.

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Obstacles facing the commercial use of CMP for ferroelectric-based capacitors with noble metal electrodes include the relatively low chemical reactivity of many noble metals of interest, and the high degree of hardness of various of those metals, especially Ir and Rh. A large degree of mechanical removal of the noble metals and oxide films is necessary to achieve high removal rates, and the CMP process may result in physical or chemical damage to the capacitor layers. Physical damage includes disruption of the microstructure and long range order of the polycrystalline oxide lattice, which is principally responsible for the unique properties of the ferroelectric and high ϵ oxides. Chemical damage, especially in the ferroelectric layer, may involve removal of specific cations, interdiffusion, de-oxygenation, or introduction of metallic contamination from the polishing media.

One difficulty in the use of CMP for planarization of FeRAM and high permittivity capacitor structures is the difficulty of accurately controlling the removal of oxide materials such as silicon dioxide (SiO_2). The ability to control the oxide removal in an accurate and reproducible manner thus would be a significant advance in the art, and would enable more robust CMP processes to be utilized in commercial manufacturing operations.

In contrast to planarization of SiO_2 using CMP, planarization of FeRAM or high ϵ capacitor structures entails CMP definition of the edge of the ferroelectric or high ϵ

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layer, where relatively high E-fields are realized in these capacitor applications. Damage to the ferroelectric or metal layers will therefore have large effects on the functionality of the capacitor.

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It would therefore be a significant advance in the art, and is one object of the present invention, to provide a method and composition for chemical mechanical polishing that is usefully employed to achieve high rate removals of material while incurring only low levels of physical or chemical damage to the elements of the microelectronic structure undergoing CMP.

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Another objective of the invention includes the provision of CMP compositions and methods that are usefully employed in capacitor fabrication, such as stack or trench capacitors including high dielectric or ferroelectric thin films, particularly where metals such as Pt, Ir, Rh, and the like are used for electrode elements in the structure.

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Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be more apparent from the ensuing disclosure and appended claims.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention utilizes chemical mechanical polishing for planarization of microelectronic device structures.

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The chemical mechanical polishing composition and method of the invention in a preferred aspect are used to delineate ferroelectric or high permittivity capacitors. Such capacitors may be of any suitable type including trench and stack capacitor structures.

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The invention facilitates fabrication of microelectronic device capacitor structures in geometries that are only limited by the resolution of the lithography and the conformality of thin film deposition processes. Therefore, the polishing of 0.18 or even 0.12 μm structures is possible without dry etching the noble metals or the thin film capacitor (high dielectric constant material layer or ferroelectric layer). Trench capacitors of this type possess the advantage of having significant contribution of sidewall area, without the need for separate patterning steps for the top and bottom electrode, thus the method of the invention has large economic advantages. Additionally, the approach of the present invention has inherent advantages to protect the plug-barrier-bottom electrode interface from exposure to oxidation.

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In one aspect, the present invention relates to a method of forming a microelectronic device structure. Such method includes the steps of forming a capacitor recess dielectric material, depositing a bottom electrode layer, a ferroelectric layer, and a top electrode layer, to form a capacitor precursor structure. This capacitor precursor structure then is planarized by chemical mechanical polishing to yield the ferroelectric capacitor structure, e.g., a stack capacitor or a trench capacitor. One improvement of the invention involves forming the capacitor recess dielectric material to contain a stop layer at the

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planarization depth, wherein the stop layer has a substantially lower CMP removal rate than the dielectric insulating material and device structure materials under CMP conditions. In this manner, the removal of the dielectric insulating material and device structure materials by CMP under CMP conditions is terminated at the planarization depth by the stop layer.

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In addition to the small feature sizes mentioned above, the invention will also find utility in fabrication of larger capacitor structures that do not require increased capacitor area, because of the simplicity of material removal compared to wet or dry etch techniques.

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The method of the invention may comprise chemical mechanical polishing of a microelectronic device structure for planarization thereof, wherein:

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(1) the CMP medium contains at least one component that is a beneficial dopant, modifier or other additive of the ferroelectric or high ϵ film being removed in the CMP operation (examples include perovskite nanocrystalline particles, such as those of barium strontium titanate; tantalum oxide, niobium oxide, or other donor dopants compensatory for O vacancies or acceptor impurity defects in the thin film capacitor material when incorporated therein; refractory nitrides and carbides including cations that are beneficial to dielectric and/or ferroelectric properties of thin film capacitor material when incorporated therein, such as tantalum nitride, tantalum carbide, niobium nitride, and niobium carbide; components that have hardness exceeding hardness of

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chemical byproducts existing at surface of the film being planarized; and reactant components that react with the material at the surface of the film being planarized, such as acids, bases and components that are effective to oxidize the material at the surface of the film being planarized);

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(II) metal (electrode material) or dielectric (ferroelectric or high dielectric constant) material is removed either during or after the CMP planarization to create a local recess in the substrate, optionally followed by deposition of an insulating layer thereover, to thereby reduce the susceptibility of the device structure to short-circuiting or high leakage current behavior in use, with such metal removal comprising at least one of the steps of:

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inert ion bombardment of the device structure after CMP planarization and before deposition of an interlayer dielectric material (e.g., Pb diffusion barrier layer for PZT device structures, Bi diffusion barrier layer for SBT device structures, and SiO_2 diffusion barrier layer for BST device structures); and isotropic dry etching of the device structure;

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(III) physical damage to the device structure crystalline lattice structure is removed by thermal annealing of the device structure after CMP planarization (e.g., by conventional oven processing, or by rapid thermal annealing (RTA), preferably conducting such thermal annealing in the presence of oxygen to facilitate correction of oxygen

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5 stoichiometry in the thin film capacitor material and/or other device structure oxide
10 layers;

(IV) noble metal electrode material is removed by a CMP composition comprising
15 component(s) selected from the group consisting of:

20 silica, alumina, titania, silicon carbide, diamond, ceria, perovskite nanocrystalline
particles, dopant materials of the above-described types, and mixtures of the foregoing;
and

25 components reactive with the noble metal electrode material to form solid and/or ionic
products having a lower hardness than the noble metal electrode material itself (e.g.,
30 nitrides, sulfides, halides, oxides, hydrated oxides, etc. of the noble metal), such reactive
components including species such as H_2O_2 , $K_4Fe(CN)_6$, $K_3Fe(C_2O_4)_3$, $Fe(C_2H_3O_2)_3$,
 $Fe(NO_3)_3$, $Fe_2(SO_4)_3$, $Fe(OH)_3$, $(NH_4)_3Fe(CN)_6$, $(NH_4)_3Fe(C_2O_4)_3$, KCl , KBr , KI , $FeCl_3$,
35 $FeBr_3$, FeI_3 , $FeCl_2$, $FeBr_2$, and FeI_2 .

40 In a further aspect of the method of the invention, wherein the metal electrode material
is being removed, a high selectivity between metal polishing and oxide polishing is
achieved by conducting the CMP operation in accordance with the relationship:

$$(pressure \times platen \ speed) < 300 \text{ psi rpm}$$

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wherein the pressure is measured in pounds per square inch, and the platen speed of the
CMP polishing pad is measured in revolutions per minute.

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Still another aspect of the invention relates to a method of fabricating an integrated
circuit structure including conductive transmission lines, comprising:

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depositing a dielectric material as a component of the structure, and providing pathways
therein for the conductive transmission lines,

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depositing a transmission-enhancement material in the pathways,

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depositing conductor material for the conductive transmission lines on the transmission-
enhancement material,

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subjecting the structure to chemical mechanical polishing for planarization thereof to
define a desired geometry of conductive transmission lines of the conductor material,
and

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depositing the transmission-enhancement material over the conductive transmission
lines of the conductor material, to encapsulate the conductive transmission lines in the
transmission-enhancement material,

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whereby the transmission enhancement material enhances the inductance and/or capacitance of the conductive transmission lines, relative to a corresponding integrated circuit structure lacking such transmission-enhancement material.

A still further aspect of the invention relates to an integrated circuit structure including conductive transmission lines encapsulated in a transmission-enhancement material selected from the group consisting of high magnetic permeability materials (e.g., MgMn ferrites and/or MgMnAl ferrites) and high permittivity materials (e.g., barium strontium titanate, lead zirconium titanate, titanium oxide, tantalum oxide, etc.).

Other aspects, features and embodiments of the invention will be more fully apparent from the ensuing disclosure and appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1A through 1H show a schematic process flow for patterning sub-micron ferroelectric capacitors in a stack capacitor configuration using CMP in accordance with the present invention, with CVD of the ferroelectric, electrode and barrier layers being desirable for feature sizes below 1 micron.

Figures 2A-2B show a schematic representation of a top edge region of the capacitor structure of Figure 1E, showing the details of the structure.

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Figures 3A-3D show a schematic process flow for patterning sub-micron transmission lines using CMP in accordance with the present invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION, AND PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS THEREOF

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The disclosure of United States Patent Application No. 08/975,366 filed November 20, 1997 in the names of Peter C. Van Buskirk and Peter S. Kirlin for "Chemical Mechanical Polishing of FeRAM Capacitors," hereby is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

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The method of the present invention permits the formation of a microelectronic device structure including forming a capacitor recess dielectric material and device structure materials on a substrate, in which the device structure materials are removed during processing to a planarization depth therein by chemical mechanical polishing (CMP). In accordance with the invention, the capacitor recess dielectric material is formed to contain a stop layer at the desired planarization depth in the dielectric insulating material. The stop layer has a substantially lower CMP removal rate than the dielectric insulating material under CMP conditions, so that the removal of the device structure materials and dielectric insulating layer material by CMP under CMP conditions is terminated at the planarization depth by the stop layer.

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The capacitor recess dielectric in such method may include a material species such as Al_2O_3 , Ta_2O_5 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , SiO_2 , Si_3N_4 , TiAlO_4 , boron-doped SiO_2 , or phosphorus-doped SiO_2 , mixtures of those materials, etc.

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The device structure materials may include one or more materials such as multicomponent oxide capacitive materials, ferroelectric materials, noble metals, noble metal alloys, polysilicon, tungsten, titanium nitride, titanium silicon nitride, titanium aluminum nitride, silicon carbide, and/or multicomponent oxide magnetoresistive materials.

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By way of specific example, the device structure may comprise a ferroelectric material such as lead zirconium titanate, strontium bismuth tantalate, bismuth titanate, etc.

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The device structure alternatively may include a multicomponent oxide capacitive material such as barium titanate, barium strontium titanate, etc., or a multicomponent oxide magnetoresistive material such as lanthanum calcium manganate.

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The stop layer may be formed of a material such as Al_2O_3 , Si_3N_4 , TiN , TiSiN , TiAlN , IrO_2 , SiC or combinations thereof. In one preferred embodiment, the dielectric insulating material comprises SiO_2 and the stop layer is formed of Si_3N_4 . In an additional preferred embodiment, the electrode materials comprise Ir, the ferroelectric material is lead zirconate titanate, and the conductive barrier layer is TiAlN . In this example the conductive barrier layer may serve as a stop layer for the CMP process.

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In the method of the invention, the ratio of the stop layer CMP removal rate to the dielectric insulating material CMP removal rate under said CMP conditions is suitably less than 0.20, and more preferably is less than 0.01.

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The microelectronic device structure that is fabricated in the practice of the invention may be of any suitable type, and may for example comprise a ferroelectric capacitor structure formed by sequentially depositing a bottom electrode layer, a ferroelectric layer and a top electrode layer on a base structure including the substrate and the capacitor recess dielectric material, to form a capacitor precursor structure, and planarizing the capacitor precursor structure by CMP to yield said ferroelectric capacitor structure. The capacitor structure may comprise a stack capacitor or alternatively a trench capacitor.

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The ferroelectric capacitor device fabrication method of the present invention is preferably carried out without dry etching of the electrode layers or dry etching of the ferroelectric layer, and is applicable to fabrication of ferroelectric capacitors having a feature size below 1.0 μm , e.g., between 0.10 and 0.20 μm .

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In one embodiment of the invention, the device structure material may form a capacitor structure including a top electrode, a ferroelectric layer, and a bottom electrode, with the

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stop layer underlying the bottom electrode as a conductive barrier layer for the capacitor
10 structure.

15 The CMP conditions applicable to the practice of the invention may include any suitable
slurry compositions, pressure and temperature conditions, as will be readily
determinable within the skill of the art and without undue experimentation. The CMP
20 conditions may for example comprise mechanical polishing with a slurry including an
oxide abrasive material, e.g., alumina and/or ceria, and chemical additives for removal
of the top electrode layer, ferroelectric layer and bottom electrode layer in the case of a
ferroelectric capacitor structure.

25 In accordance with the method of the present invention for fabrication of a ferroelectric
capacitor microelectronic device structure, there are several approaches that obviate or
30 prevent degraded capacitor performance due to damage to the ferroelectric and/or noble
metal layers of the capacitor in consequence of the use of CMP for planarization. The
different approaches can be categorized as: (a) preventing damage; (b) localizing
35 damage to minimize its impact on capacitor function; and (c) healing damage. These
approaches are each described in turn below

40 In the approach (a) of preventing damage to the microelectronic device structure, the
CMP operation may be carried out with polishing media containing elements that are
45 used as dopants and/or modifiers in the film being removed, so that these components of
the CMP composition become incorporated in the film left at the conclusion of CMP

5 processing, and beneficially affect the residual film on the substrate, relative to the use
10 of a CMP composition lacking such components therein.

15 For example, the polishing media may be formulated to contain perovskite
nanocrystalline particles similar in composition to the film being removed, or including
constituents that would have a positive effect on the dielectric material layer if the
20 cations of the perovskite material were incorporated in the dielectric film material, either
as dopants or modifiers. Such compounds may for example include BaSrTiO_3 , and
related materials, which contain species that are known to be beneficial to the properties
25 of the many other perovskites when incorporated therein in small concentrations. An
additional benefit of this approach is that the hardness of the perovskites are similar (i.e.,
the perovskite in the film being subjected to CMP processing, and the perovskite in the
30 CMP composition), and removal of the perovskite film would only take place if it was
chemically modified at its surface. The resulting process is therefore highly controllable
in character, since chemical surface modification may be employed to achieve highly
35 precise levels of material removal in the CMP operation.

40 Polishing media may be employed in the CMP operation, which are comprised of oxides
such as Ta_2O_5 or Nb_2O_5 . Incorporation of those metal elements improve the properties
of many perovskite oxides, especially those in the PZT family, which are prone to O
45 vacancies, which in turn result in degraded electrical properties. Donor dopants may be
employed to compensate for O vacancies as well as defects due to acceptor impurities,

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so that the dopant species are incorporated in the film being subjected to CMP processing.

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Refractory nitrides or carbides likewise may be employed in the CMP medium, which contain cations as described above. Examples include Ta nitride, Ta carbide, Nb nitride and Nb carbide.

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The CMP medium may be formulated to have hardness exceeding the hardness of the chemical byproducts at the film surface of the material undergoing CMP, yet which will also "stop" at polish stop layers such as binary or ternary nitride-carbide barriers, as described in copending U.S. patent application no. 09/141,971 filed August 28, 1998 in the names of Peter C. Van Buskirk and Michael W. Russell for "Ternary Nitride-Carbide Barrier Layers," the disclosure of which hereby is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

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Mixtures of the above-described CMP media with conventional slurries, including liquid media that are typically used to react at the thin film surface, as for example acids, bases and oxidizers, may be usefully employed in CMP compositions according to the present invention.

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In the above-described approach (b) of localizing damage to the microelectronic device structure to minimize the impact on subsequent device function and operation, preferential removal of the metal or dielectric (ferroelectric or high ϵ) layer may be

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carried out, either during or after the CMP step, to create a local recess. This approach removes the damaged area, or makes the presence of a damaged region irrelevant. In this case the possibility of electrical shorts or high leakage current in the areas affected will be reduced. Such an approach may be accomplished in a several ways.

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In one technique, inert ion bombardment may be carried out after CMP is complete and before deposition of the interlayer dielectric (e.g., a Pb or Bi diffusion barrier for PZT and SBT; SiO_2 for BST). Bombardment will preferentially remove lighter elements such as Zr and Ti compared to Ir or Pt, for example, and residual Pb may be removed as PbO at elevated temperatures such as $> 600^\circ\text{C}$. The inert ions for such bombardment technique may be of any suitable type, which are non-reactive to the material being removed. Examples include argon, helium, xenon, etc.

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As another technique, isotropic dry etching may be carried out, as more fully described in co-pending U.S. patent application no. U.S. Patent Application No. 09/093,291 filed June 8, 1998 in the names of Peter C. Van Buskirk, Frank DiMeo, Jr., Peter S. Kirlin, and Thomas H. Baum for "ISOTROPIC DRY CLEANING PROCESS FOR NOBLE METAL INTEGRATED CIRCUIT STRUCTURES," the disclosure of which hereby is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

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In the alternative approach (c) of healing damage to the processed film that has been occasioned by the CMP operation, physical damage to the crystalline lattice may be removed by using a post-CMP thermal anneal. Such thermal anneal may be of any suitable type, and may for example comprise a conventional oven thermal anneal process or a rapid thermal anneal (RTA) process. This post-CMP anneal is typically and preferably performed in the presence of oxygen in order to allow oxygen stoichiometry to be corrected.

The present invention also contemplates the formulation of CMP slurry media to achieve significant removal rates of noble metals via chemical mechanical polishing. Suitable CMP slurry media for the polishing of iridium and other noble metals are more fully described in co-pending U.S. patent application no. U.S. Patent Application No. 09/ _____ (reference ATM-338) filed _____, 1998 in the names of Michael W. Russell, Peter C. Van Buskirk, Jonathan J. Wolk, and George T. Emond for "PROCESS FOR THE CMP REMOVAL OF IRIIDIUM THIN FILMS," the disclosure of which hereby is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Polishing media for noble metals may contain conventional abrasive particles such as silica, alumina, titania, silicon carbide, diamond, or ceria; perovskite nanocrystalline particles, or dopant metal particles of the type as described earlier hereinabove, or mixtures of two or more of the foregoing.

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During metal CMP, the slurry chemicals react with the metal surface and form either solid and/or ionic products. Enhanced removal rate of the metal film is accomplished in instances where this surface layer is more easily removed by abrasion than the original metal surface. The surface layer may be a nitride, sulfide, halide, or combination thereof, but is most likely an oxide or hydrated oxide layer that is softer than the underlying noble metal film. Native oxide and hydroxide films may form in exposure to various CMP slurries depending upon the solution pH, electrochemical potential of the metal in the slurry environment, and the kinetics of the various reactions that are thermodynamically favorable for a given set of CMP processing conditions. Control of the solution pH and electrochemical potential via the use of buffering agents may be desirable in order to facilitate a balance between chemical etching and material removal by mechanical abrasion.

Chemical additions to the polishing media which promote the formation of a softer surface layer include H_2O_2 , $K_4Fe(CN)_6$, $K_3Fe(C_2O_4)_3$, $Fe(C_2H_3O_2)_3$, $Fe(NO_3)_3$, $Fe_2(SO_4)_3$, $Fe(OH)_3$, $(NH_4)_3Fe(CN)_6$, $(NH_4)_3Fe(C_2O_4)_3$, KCl , KBr , KI , $FeCl_3$, $FeBr_3$, FeI_3 , $FeCl_2$, $FeBr_2$, and FeI_2 , and combinations of two or more of the foregoing, with the choice of a specific composition and softening agents being readily determinable without undue experimentation by those of ordinary skill in the art.

Based on the Preston equation for CMP, high selectivity between metal and oxide polishing may be achieved by conducting the CMP operation under conditions at which the parameter (pressure x platen speed) has a value of less than 300 psi rpm, wherein

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pressure of the CMP polishing pad is measured in psi, and the platen speed of the
polishing pad is measured in rpm units.
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While the invention is described more fully hereinafter primarily in relation to capacitor
structures and their fabrication using the CMP methodology and CMP compositions of
15 the invention, it will be recognized that the utility of the invention is not thus limited, but
encompasses a wide variety of other microelectronic device structures, such as for
example, integrated circuit structures such as capacitor, resistor and inductor structures,
20 and other microelectronic device structures which utilize multilayer geometries.

25 Referring now to the drawings, the process flow for one embodiment of the invention as
it applies to a stack capacitor is shown schematically in Figures 1A through 1H. The
steps shown in the drawings for Figures 1A through 1H, are described below with
30 reference to the following correspondingly identified sequence of process steps A
through H.

35 As shown in Figure 1A (step A), a substrate 10 (typically formed of silicon, although
other substrate materials of construction, such as GaAs, are possible) is provided with
transistors and other circuitry (not shown) already fabricated below the wafer surface 12,
40 according to conventional fabrication techniques. The silicon circuitry is covered with
an insulating layer (isolation dielectric) 14 such as TiO₂, SiO₂, Si₃N₄, boron- or
45 phosphorus-doped SiO₂, etc. Vias 16 to the Si circuitry are opened using

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photolithography and dry-etching, a plug 18 of suitable material, such as p-Si or W, is formed in the vias using CVD, and the surface 20 is planarized using dry etching or CMP.

In step B (Figure 1B), a capacitor recess dielectric 22, of a material such as TiO₂, SiO₂, Si₃N₄, boron- or phosphorus-doped SiO₂, etc., is formed over the surface of the plugs 18 and isolation dielectric 14 using CVD, sputtering or wet deposition methods. In one embodiment the isolation layer and the capacitor recess dielectric may be fabricated from the same material.

In step C (Figure 1C), capacitor recesses 24 are formed in the surface of the insulating layer 22 using photolithography and dry-etching. The top surface of the conductive plug 26 may then be sputter etched or heat treated to ensure a clean surface prior to conductive barrier deposition in step D.

The conducting and insulating layers that will comprise the capacitor layers are deposited in step D (Figure 1D). The layers include (in the sequence they would be deposited in): a conductive barrier layer 28, the bottom electrode 30 (BE), the ferroelectric layer 32 (FE), the top electrode 34 (TE), and the dielectric insulating layer 35. The conductive barrier layer may be TiN, TiSiN, TiAlN, IrO₂, SiC or some other material suitable to withstand oxidation and prevent diffusion of Si. The conductive barrier layer may also be comprised of a Ti layer that is first deposited to improve

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contact of the barrier to the plug. The BE and TE layers are typically noble metals such as Pt or Ir, or alloys of similar materials. In some instances, TE need not be a noble metal, since it does not need to withstand the highly oxidizing deposition environment. The FE layer material is typically PZT or SBT, but it may be bismuth titanate or some other ferroelectric thin film composition. Alternatively it may be a similar multicomponent oxide such as BST for high capacitance, or LaCaMnO₃ for magnetoresistance, etc.

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It is evident that some sidewall coverage of these layers is necessary and the different layers require sidewall coverage for different reasons. The barrier must cover the sidewall in order to make good adhesion between the BE and the capacitor recess dielectric, because excellent mechanical robustness is needed for the polishing in step E. The BE must cover the sidewall to achieve adequate thickness for electrical continuity if the sidewall part of the structure is to be used for the chosen application. Another constraint is that both the conductive barrier and the BE will together serve as a Pb or Bi diffusion barrier when PbZrTiO₃ or SrBi₂Ta₂O₉ are the dielectrics, and that function also requires adequate sidewall coverage of those layers. The dielectric must have adequate sidewall coverage to obtain uniform electrical properties in the capacitor, and to prevent short-circuiting between the TE and BE. For geometries > 0.5 μm, the conductive layers can be deposited using sputtering, which results in adequate sidewall coverage. For smaller geometries or high aspect ratios in the capacitor recess, CVD of the conductive layers may be needed. CVD of the FE layer will generally be needed to prevent shorting

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10 between the TE and BE, although there may be cases where the FE can be sputtered with satisfactory results.

15 Next, in step E (Figure 1E), the film stack is planarized using CMP which forms the 3 dimensional capacitors in the capacitor recesses. The CMP process is comprised of mechanical polishing with a slurry that typically contains an oxide abrasive harder than the materials being removed, such as alumina, ceria, etc., with chemical additives
20 present to promote selective removal of the dielectric insulating layer, TE, FE, BE and barrier, relative to the capacitor recess dielectric.

25 In this step it is desirable to have a low selectivity between the conductive electrode metals, ferroelectric and barrier films (e.g., ~ 1:1) and a high selectivity between the conductive electrode metals and capacitor recess dielectric 22 (e.g., > 5:1). This
30 selectivity will effectively stop the CMP process without requiring an excessively large thickness of the stop layer.

35 A preferred embodiment is to utilize a CMP process having a high selectivity between the electrode metal and the barrier layer, thereby using the barrier layer 28 as an intrinsic
40 stop layer for the CMP process.

45 Alternatively, a conductive or an insulating stop layer 23 other than the barrier layer can be formed on the surface of the capacitor recess dielectric prior to fabrication of the capacitor recesses and utilized to terminate the CMP process in a similar manner.
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When a conductive stop layer or conductive barrier layer is used to terminate the CMP process, the portion of this layer which lies outside of the capacitor recesses is removed or oxidized to render it insulating prior to the subsequent deposition of the insulating passivation layer which occurs in the next step. The removal of the barrier layer can then be carried out by dry etching, a process that is understood in the art and may be usefully employed for barrier layer materials such as TiN, TiAlN or IrO₂.

A third alternative is to fabricate the entire capacitor recess dielectric of a suitable CMP stop layer material, and in that way there will be thickness of the stop layer even in cases where the selectivity of the CMP process is low with respect to the stop layer removal rate.

It may be required to sequentially apply two or more separate CMP processes (or slurries) for removal of the different materials in the capacitor, i.e., It may require a different CMP process than PZT, for example. Using an alumina-based slurry, Ir removal rates between 20-50 nm/min. have been demonstrated. Most CMP processes utilize a second stage polish that removes microscratches and/or corrosion product(s) that are present on the wafer surface. A post-CMP anneal in an oxidizing or inert environment may be carried out if required to remove physical or chemical damage to the ferroelectric film that was subjected to mechanical and chemical agitation during its partial removal by CMP.

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Passive endpoint detection (utilization of high selectivity interfaces) is easily
10 integratable and is preferred over the use of expensive metrology equipment.

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Step F (Figure 1F) involves sequentially depositing an insulating passivation layer 36
and an inter-level dielectric (ILD) 38 over the capacitors that were formed in the
previous step. This barrier is deposited using CVD, sputtering or wet deposition
20 methods, and its purpose is to prevent undesirable chemical reactions and interdiffusion
between the top edge of the ferroelectric film or electrodes and the overlying ILD layer
that typically contains Si or SiO₂. PZT and SBT in particular contain the highly
chemically reactive and mobile species of Pb and Bi respectively, and it is important to
25 prevent interdiffusion of those or similar species with the ILD layer. The passivation
layer may be TiO₂, ZrO₂, Ta₂O₅, Si₃N₄ or other similar dielectric materials that
include mixtures of those materials too. The ILD is TiO₂, SiO₂, Si₃N₄, boron- or
30 phosphorus-doped SiO₂, etc., and is deposited using CVD, sputtering or wet deposition
methods.

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In step G (Figure 1G) vias 40 are opened in the barrier layer and ILD using
photolithography and dry-etching.

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Finally, in step H (Figure 1H), a diffusion barrier 42 of a material such as TiN, TiAlN,
45 WN or other suitable material is deposited using CVD or sputtering, and metallization
44 is deposited over that barrier, in order to conformally fill the via. The metallization

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may be either CVD-applied W or Al that is sputtered at high temperatures or reflowed, or Cu, or Al-Cu alloys, or other conductive materials. The metallization is then patterned using photolithography and dry-etching.

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In the Figures 1A-1H process flow for patterning sub-micron ferroelectric capacitors in a stack capacitor configuration, using CMP, chemical vapor deposition (CVD) of the ferroelectric, electrode and barrier layers is desirably employed for feature sizes below 0.35 μm .

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As another example of a process flow in which the CMP methodology of the invention may be usefully employed, the fabrication of a trench capacitor is described below.

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A substrate is utilized that may for example be formed of silicon, although other materials such as GaAs are potentially usefully employed, with transistors and other circuitry fabricated in the wafer surface. Alternatively, the substrate may be p-type, with no transistors fabricated in it at the time of capacitor formation.

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Capacitor recesses are formed in the surface of the Si using photolithography and dry-etching.

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Next, the conducting and insulating layers that will comprise the capacitor layers are deposited. The layers include (in the sequence in which they are deposited): a

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conductive barrier layer, a bottom electrode (BE), a ferroelectric layer (FE), and a top
electrode (TE) layer. The barrier layer may be formed of TiN, TiSiN, TiAlN, IrO₂, SiC
or some other material suitable to withstand oxidation and to prevent diffusion of Si.
The BE and TE layers are typically formed of noble metals such as Pt or Ir, or alloys of
similar materials. The TE layer need not be formed of a noble metal, since such layer
does not need to withstand the highly oxidizing deposition environment. The FE layer is
typically formed of PZT or SBT, but it may be alternatively formed of bismuth titanate
or some other ferroelectric thin film material. Sidewall coverage issues are similar to
those described above in the illustrative stack capacitor process flow, and the high aspect
ratio (depth/width) of trenches in the Si substrate makes CVD highly preferred for
fabricating all the capacitor-forming layers.

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The film stack is planarized using CMP to form the three-dimensional capacitors in the
capacitor recesses. The CMP process is conducted in accordance with the present
invention and may utilize a slurry that typically contains an oxide abrasive harder than
the materials being removed, such as alumina, ceria, etc., with chemical additives
present to promote selective removal of the TE, FE, BE, and barrier layer relative to the
silicon. It may be required to sequentially apply more than one CMP process, and to
post-anneal the capacitor structure in an oxidizing environment, as described
hereinabove.

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Next, an insulating passivation layer and an inter-level dielectric (ILD) layer are
sequentially deposited over the capacitors formed in the previous step.

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Vias then are opened in the barrier comprising the insulating passivation layer and ILD layer using photolithography and dry-etching. A diffusion barrier layer of a material such as TiN, TiAlN, WN or another suitable material is deposited using CVD or sputtering

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The barrier layer deposited previously is patterned using dry etching or CMP.

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Vias are opened to doped regions formed previously and p-Si or other suitable conductor is deposited and patterned to form part of the circuitry for the memory cell. Dielectric isolation material is then formed over the patterned p-Si word lines and plate, vias are opened to the transfer transistor (doped Si regions) and the bit line is formed by deposition and patterning of Al with suitable barrier layers at the Si interface.

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In the above-described method for forming sub-micron ferroelectric capacitors in a trench capacitor configuration using CMP, it is preferred to utilize CVD to form the ferroelectric, electrode and barrier layers, when feature sizes below 0.35 μm or high aspect ratios are desired.

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Figure 2A shows a magnified view of the device structure of Figure 1E after CMP has been carried out. The CMP operation may result in the recessing of electrode layer edges forming the recess gaps 36 in relation to the otherwise planarized surface.

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To compensate for such recess structure, and to minimize the edge effects and deleterious phenomena accompanying such conformation of the electrode layers in the subsequent use of the microelectronic device, an insulating layer 39 may be deposited over the device structure, as shown in Figure 2B. An insulating layer such as TiO_2 or Ta_2O_5 may be used in the case of PZT or SBT dielectrics, respectively, to afford resistance to Pb or Bi diffusion. Standard interlayer dielectric processing and metallization can follow. Recess of the damaged dielectric is an alternative resultant condition of the CMP operation, and can be correspondingly dealt with, by forming an insulative layer over the dielectric material.

In accordance with an additional embodiment of the invention, chemical mechanical polishing is used to pattern conductive lines. The self-inductance of the lines may be increased by embedding them in a high magnetic permeability material. Magnetic permeability is quantitatively complex; the real part μ' is dispersive (resulting in a phase change for propagating energy) and the imaginary part μ'' is dissipative (resulting in a loss of propagating energy).

Ferrites are quaternary (or higher oxidative state) metal oxide compounds which exhibit a high μ' and low μ'' over certain frequency ranges thus making them a suitable class of materials for conductive line applications. Their high permeability, low loss

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characteristics serve to minimize electrical noise and power dissipation while maintaining signal levels in the conductive lines at appropriate levels.

Examples of ferrites with low μ'' in the microwave region include MgMn ferrites ($\text{Mg}_x\text{Mn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$) and MgMnAl ferrites ($\text{Mg}_x\text{Mn}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_y\text{Al}_{2-y}\text{O}_4$). The magnetic and electrical resistance properties of thin films of these materials may be further engineered by modifying grain size, Fe content, etc.

Similarly, in order to achieve a line with increased capacitance per unit length, parasitic capacitance may be increased by embedding the transmission line in a material with high permittivity, ϵ . Candidates for the high ϵ film include BaSrTiO_3 , paraelectric materials from the PbZrTiO_3 family, TiO_2 , Ta_2O_5 , etc.

Fabrication of a transmission line with increased inductance (or capacitance) generally will begin with a substrate already containing parts of the integrated circuit, although in principle a network of transmission lines may be formed at any time during fabrication of the integrated circuit device. Figure 3A shows a substrate 10, with a conductive via 18, which is connected to transistors and other buried circuitry (not shown) already fabricated below the wafer surface. A recess dielectric 22, typically comprising SiO_2 , Si_3N_4 or other suitable insulator material, is deposited by suitable methods well-known to those with ordinary skill in the art. Recesses 24 are opened in the recess dielectric by wet or dry etching. Dry etching is preferred for feature sizes below about 1 micron. The

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layout of these recesses correspond to the pathways intended for the conductors, and vertical holes may be fabricated in an adjacent lithography-etch step, in order to make contact to conductors or other subsurface structures in the substrate.

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As shown in Figure 3B, the recesses are filled sequentially by a high permeability layer 46, followed by a conductor 48, using conventional methods for deposition of those layers, such as for example, sputtering, evaporation, CVD, laser ablation, etc. For certain high μ layer applications, layer 46 may also comprise a barrier layer (not shown) in order to prevent chemical interactions or diffusional interactions with the recess dielectric.

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Figure 3C shows the substrate with these films planarized using CMP, thereby forming the final geometry of the conductor 48. In order to encapsulate the conductor 48 a layer of high μ material 50 is deposited over the CMP planarized surface, as shown in Figure 3D.

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Depending on the inductance characteristics desired, subsequent metal layers may be formed with or without the inductance-enhancing high μ layers, by using the same fabrication method described herein.

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Higher capacitance structures may also be superimposed in this fabrication scheme by substituting high ϵ material for the high μ thin films.

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The present invention may be utilized in any application in which CMP is used to delineate a coordinated formation of conductors and insulators in an integrated circuit.

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Resistors may be correspondingly formed, by a damascene process utilizing suitable materials, e.g., Ta or TaN, which have fairly low temperature coefficients of resistance. In general it will be advantageous to form inductors, capacitors and resistors together in an integrated circuit using these techniques.

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It will be recognized that the practice of the invention may be widely varied in accordance with the specific teachings herein, to form a wide variety of microelectronic device structures in which planarization and material removal are carried out by CMP and in accordance with the present invention.

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Accordingly, while the invention has been described herein with reference to specific aspects, features and embodiments, it will be recognized that the utility of the invention is not thus limited, but rather extends to and encompasses other modifications, variations and other embodiments. Accordingly, the invention is to be correspondingly broadly construed, in respect of the claims hereinafter set forth.

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Claims

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THE CLAIMS

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What is claimed is:

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1. A method of fabricating a microelectronic device structure including forming a device precursor structure, and planarizing the device precursor structure by chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) with a CMP medium, wherein said method comprises at least one of the following steps (I)-(IV):

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(I) the CMP medium contains at least one component conferring beneficial properties to the microelectronic device structure when incorporated therein;

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(II) the microelectronic device structure comprises metal and dielectric materials, and at least one of the metal and dielectric materials is removed either during or after the CMP planarization to create a local recess in the microelectronic device structure, optionally followed by deposition of an insulating layer thereover, to thereby reduce the susceptibility of the device structure to short-circuiting or high leakage current behavior in use;

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(III) physical damage to the microelectronic device structure is removed by thermal annealing of the device structure after CMP planarization; and

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(IV) noble metal electrode material is removed by said CMP medium.

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2. A method according to claim 1, comprising step (I), wherein the beneficial component(s) include at least one of perovskite nanocrystalline particles; donor dopants compensatory for O vacancies or acceptor impurity defects in microelectronic device structure material when incorporated therein; refractory nitrides and carbides including cations that are beneficial to dielectric and/or ferroelectric properties of the microelectronic device structure material when incorporated therein; components that have hardness exceeding hardness of chemical byproducts existing at the surface of the microelectronic device structure being planarized; and reactant components that react with the microelectronic device structure material at the surface of the microelectronic device structure being planarized.

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3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the component(s) include barium strontium titanate.

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4. A method according to claim 2, wherein the component(s) include at least one of tantalum oxide and niobium oxide.

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5. A method according to claim 2, wherein the component(s) include at least one of tantalum nitride, tantalum carbide, niobium nitride, and niobium carbide.

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6. A method according to claim 2, wherein the component(s) include at least one of acids, bases, and components that are effective to oxidize material at the surface of the film being planarized.

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7. A method according to claim 1, comprising step (II), wherein said step (II) includes at least one of the operations of:

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inert ion bombardment of the device structure after CMP planarization and before deposition of an interlayer dielectric material; and

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isotropic dry etching of the device structure.

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8. A method according to claim 7, wherein step (II) includes inert ion bombardment of the device structure after CMP planarization and before deposition of an interlayer dielectric material.

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9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said microelectronic device structure includes a lead zirconium titanate (PZT) thin film layer, and a Pb diffusion barrier.

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10. A method according to claim 8, wherein said microelectronic device structure includes a strontium bismuth tantalate (SBT) thin film layer, and a Bi diffusion barrier.

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11. A method according to claim 8, wherein said microelectronic device structure includes a barium strontium titanate (BST) thin film layer, and an SiO₂ diffusion barrier layer.

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12. A method according to claim 1, comprising step (III), wherein said thermal annealing of the microelectronic device structure after CMP planarization is conducted by oven thermal annealing.

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13. A method according to claim 1, comprising step (III), wherein said thermal annealing of the microelectronic device structure after CMP planarization is conducted by rapid thermal annealing (RTA).

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14. A method according to claim 1, comprising step (III), wherein said thermal annealing of the microelectronic device structure after CMP planarization is conducted in the presence of oxygen to correct oxygen stoichiometry in the microelectronic device structure.

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15. A method according to claim 1, comprising step (IV), wherein said CMP medium comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

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silica; alumina; titania; silicon carbide; diamond; ceria; perovskite nanocrystalline particles; dopant materials; and components reactive with the noble metal electrode

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material to form solid and/or ionic products having a lower hardness than the noble metal electrode material itself.

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16. A method according to claim 15, wherein said at least one component of the CMP medium is selected from the group consisting of: nitrides, sulfides, halides, oxides, and hydrated oxides.

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17. A method according to claim 15, wherein said at least one component of the CMP medium is selected from the group consisting of: H_2O_2 , $K_3Fe(CN)_6$, $K_3Fe(C_2O_4)_3$, $Fe(C_2H_3O_2)_3$, $Fe(NO_3)_3$, $Fe_2(SO_4)_3$, $Fe(OH)_3$, $(NH_4)_3Fe(CN)_6$, $(NH_4)_3Fe(C_2O_4)_3$, KCl , KBr , KI , $FeCl_3$, $FeBr_3$, FeI_3 , $FeCl_2$, $FeBr_2$, and FeI_2 .

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18. A method according to claim 1, wherein the microelectronic device structure comprises a metal electrode and a dielectric material, and the metal electrode material is removed in said CMP planarization, and the CMP planarization is conducted in accordance with the relationship:

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$$(\text{pressure} \times \text{platen speed}) < 300 \text{ psi rpm}$$

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wherein pressure is a pressure exerted on the microelectronic device structure in the CMP planarization by a CMP polishing pad, as measured in pounds per square inch, and platen speed is the platen speed of the CMP polishing pad, as measured in revolutions per minute.

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19. A method of fabricating a ferroelectric capacitor microelectronic device structure by sequentially depositing a conductive barrier layer, bottom electrode layer, a ferroelectric layer and a top electrode layer on a base structure, to form a capacitor precursor structure, and planarizing the capacitor precursor structure by chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) with a CMP medium, to yield said ferroelectric capacitor microelectronic device structure, wherein said method comprises at least one of the following steps (I)-(IV):

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(I) the CMP medium contains at least one component conferring beneficial properties to the microelectronic device structure when incorporated therein;

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(II) the microelectronic device structure comprises metal and dielectric materials, and at least one of the metal and dielectric materials is removed either during or after the CMP planarization to create a local recess in the microelectronic device structure, optionally followed by deposition of an insulating layer thereover, to thereby reduce the susceptibility of the device structure to short-circuiting or high leakage current behavior in use;

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(III) physical damage to the microelectronic device structure is removed by thermal annealing of the device structure after CMP planarization; and

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(IV) noble metal electrode material is removed by said CMP medium.

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20. A method according to claim 19, carried out without dry etching of the electrode layers or dry etching of the ferroelectric layer, and wherein the ferroelectric capacitor has a feature size between 0.10 and 0.20 μm .

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21. A method according to claim 19, wherein the ferroelectric capacitor has a feature size below 0.35 μm .

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22. A method according to claim 19, wherein the bottom electrode is formed of a noble metal.

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23. A method according to claim 19, wherein the top electrode is formed of a noble metal.

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24. A method according to claim 19, wherein the ferroelectric material layer is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of PZT, SBT, bismuth titanate, BST and LaCaMnO_3 .

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25. A method according to claim 19, wherein each of the top electrode, ferroelectric layer and bottom electrode deposition steps is independently carried out by a method selected from the group consisting of sputtering and chemical vapor deposition.

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26. A method according to claim 19, wherein each of the top electrode, ferroelectric layer and bottom electrode deposition steps is carried out by chemical vapor deposition.

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27. A method according to claim 19, wherein the chemical mechanical polishing comprises mechanical polishing with a slurry including an oxide abrasive material, and chemical additives for removal of the conductive barrier layer, bottom electrode layer, ferroelectric layer and top electrode layer.

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28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the slurry comprises an oxide abrasive material selected from the group consisting of alumina and ceria.

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29. A method according to claim 19, wherein the chemical mechanical polishing comprises multiple chemical mechanical polishing steps, each carried out with a different slurry material.

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30. A method according to claim 19, wherein the microelectronic device structure includes metallization formed of a material selected from the group consisting of W, Al, Cu, and Al-Cu alloys.

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31. A method according to claim 30, wherein the metallization is patterned by photolithography and dry-etching.

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32. A method for fabricating a trench capacitor on a substrate including a device region,
comprising:

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forming a capacitor recess in the substrate;

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depositing over the capacitor recess in sequence, a conductive barrier
layer, a bottom electrode layer, a ferroelectric layer and a top electrode layer, to
form a film of the sequentially deposited layers;

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planarizing the film by chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) with a
CMP medium to yield a trench capacitor in the capacitor recess;

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depositing an inter-level dielectric layer to form a barrier structure over
the trench capacitor in the capacitor recess;

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forming a via in the barrier structure;

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depositing over the barrier structure and via a diffusion barrier layer;

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patterning the diffusion barrier layer in a selected pattern;

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forming a first via to a device region of the substrate;

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forming circuitry structure over the substrate including a plate and a first line element of a word and bit line structure for the trench capacitor;

depositing an isolation dielectric material over the plate and line elements;

forming a second via to a device region of the substrate;

depositing a metallization layer, to conformally fill the second via in the barrier structure; and

patterning the metallization layer to form a complimentary line element of the word and bit line structure for the trench capacitor,

wherein said method comprises at least one of the following steps (I)-(IV):

(I) the CMP medium contains at least one component conferring beneficial properties to the microelectronic device structure when incorporated therein;

(II) the microelectronic device structure comprises metal and dielectric materials, and at least one of the metal and dielectric materials is removed either during or after the CMP planarization to create a local recess in the microelectronic device structure, to thereby

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reduce the susceptibility of the device structure to short-circuiting or high leakage current behavior in use;

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(III) physical damage to the microelectronic device structure is removed by thermal annealing of the device structure after CMP planarization; and

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(IV) noble metal electrode material is removed by said CMP medium.

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33. A method according to claim 32, comprising at least two of said steps (I)-(IV).

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34. A method according to claim 32, wherein the substrate is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of silicon and gallium arsenide.

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35. A method according to claim 32, wherein the substrate is formed of silicon.

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36. A method according to claim 32, wherein the isolation dielectric insulating material is selected from the group consisting of SiO₂, Si₃N₄, Ta₂O₅, TiAlO₄, B- and P-doped SiO₂.

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37. A method according to claim 32, wherein the via is fabricated in the isolation dielectric insulating material by photolithography and dry etch removal of isolation dielectric insulating material from a via area of the material.

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38. A method according to claim 32, wherein the capacitor recess is formed by photolithography and dry etching.

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39. A method according to claim 32, wherein the conductive barrier layer is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of TiN, TiSiN, TiAlN, IrO₂, and SiC.

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40. A method according to claim 32, wherein the bottom electrode is formed of a noble metal.

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41. A method according to claim 32, wherein the top electrode is formed of a noble metal.

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42. A method according to claim 32, wherein the ferroelectric material layer is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of PZT, SBT, bismuth titanate, BST and LaCaMnO₃.

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43. A method according to claim 32, wherein each of the top electrode, ferroelectric layer and bottom electrode deposition steps is independently carried out by a method selected from the group consisting of sputtering and chemical vapor deposition.

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44. A method according to claim 32, wherein each of the top electrode, ferroelectric layer and bottom electrode deposition steps is carried out by chemical vapor deposition.

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45. A method according to claim 32, wherein the film chemical mechanical polishing comprises mechanical polishing with a slurry including an oxide abrasive material, and chemical additives for removal of the conductive barrier layer, bottom electrode layer, ferroelectric layer and top electrode layer.

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46. A method according to claim 45, wherein the slurry comprises an oxide abrasive material selected from the group consisting of alumina and ceria.

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47. A method according to claim 32, wherein the film chemical mechanical polishing comprises multiple chemical mechanical polishing steps, each carried out with a different slurry material.

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48. A method according to claim 32, wherein the barrier structure comprising the insulating passivation layer and inter-level dielectric layer, is deposited by a method selected from the group consisting of CVD, sputtering and wet deposition methods.

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49. A method according to claim 32, wherein the insulating passivation layer is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of TiO₂, ZrO₂, Ta₂O₅, Si₃N₄ and mixtures thereof.

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50. A method according to claim 32, wherein the inter-level dielectric layer is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of SiO₂, Si₃N₄, TiO₂, B- and P-doped SiO₂.

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51. A method according to claim 32, wherein the via is formed in the barrier structure by photolithography and dry-etching.

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52. A method according to claim 32, wherein the diffusion barrier layer is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of TiN and WN.

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53. A method according to claim 32, wherein the metallization is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of W, Al, Cu, and Al-Cu alloys.

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54. A method according to claim 32, wherein the metallization is patterned by photolithography and dry-etching.

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55. A method according to claim 32, wherein the substrate comprises buried circuitry.

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56. A method according to claim 32, wherein the substrate comprises p-type silicon material.

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57. A method according to claim 32, wherein the circuitry structure is formed at least in part by deposition of polysilicon.

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58. A method according to claim 32, wherein the trench capacitor has a feature size below 0.35 μ m.

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59. A method of forming a microelectronic device structure including forming a capacitor recess dielectric material and device structure material on a substrate, wherein the device structure material is removed during processing to a planarization depth therein by chemical mechanical polishing (CMP), said method comprising forming the capacitor recess dielectric material to contain a stop layer at the planarization depth, wherein the stop layer has a substantially lower CMP removal rate than the dielectric insulating material and device structure materials under CMP conditions, so that the removal of the device structure materials by CMP under CMP conditions is terminated at the planarization depth by the stop layer.

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60. A method according to claim 59, wherein the capacitor recess dielectric material includes a material species selected from the group consisting of Al_2O_3 , Ta_2O_5 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , SiO_2 , Si_3N_4 , boron-doped SiO_2 , and phosphorus -doped SiO_2 .

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61. A method according to claim 59, wherein the device structure material includes at least one material selected from the group consisting of multicomponent oxide

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capacitive materials, ferroelectric materials, noble metals, noble metal alloys, polysilicon, tungsten, titanium nitride, titanium silicon nitride, titanium aluminum nitride, silicon carbide, and multicomponent oxide magnetoresistive materials.

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62. A method according to claim 59, wherein the device structure comprises a ferroelectric material.

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63. A method according to claim 62, wherein the ferroelectric material is selected from the group consisting of lead zirconium titanate, strontium bismuth tantalate, and bismuth titanate.

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64. A method according to claim 59, wherein the device structure comprises a multicomponent oxide capacitive material.

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65. A method according to claim 64, wherein the multicomponent oxide capacitive material comprises barium strontium titanate.

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66. A method according to claim 59, wherein the device structure comprises a multicomponent oxide magnetoresistive material.

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67. A method according to claim 66, wherein the multicomponent oxide magnetoresistive material comprises lanthanum calcium manganate.

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68. A method according to claim 59, wherein the stop layer is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of Si_3N_4 , TiN, TiSiN, TiAlN, IrO_2 , and SiC.

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69. A method according to claim 59, wherein the dielectric insulating material comprises SiO_2 and the stop layer is formed of Si_3N_4 .

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70. A method according to claim 59, wherein the ratio of the stop layer CMP removal rate to the dielectric insulating material CMP removal rate under said CMP conditions is less than 0.10.

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71. A method according to claim 59, wherein the ratio of the stop layer CMP removal rate to the dielectric insulating material CMP removal rate under said CMP conditions is less than 0.01.

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72. A method according to claim 59, wherein the microelectronic device structure comprises a ferroelectric capacitor structure formed by sequentially depositing a bottom electrode layer, a ferroelectric layer and a top electrode layer on a base structure including the substrate and the dielectric insulating material, to form a capacitor precursor structure, and planarizing the capacitor precursor structure by CMP to yield said ferroelectric capacitor structure.

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73. A method according to claim 72, wherein the capacitor structure comprises a stack capacitor.

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74. A method according to claim 72, wherein the capacitor structure comprises a trench capacitor.

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75. A method according to claim 72, carried out without dry etching of the electrode layers or dry etching of the ferroelectric layer, and wherein the ferroelectric capacitor has a feature size between 0.06 and 1.0 μm .

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76. A method according to claim 72, wherein the ferroelectric capacitor has a feature size below 0.35 μm .

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77. A method according to claim 59, wherein the device structure material forms a capacitor structure including a top electrode, a ferroelectric layer, and a bottom electrode, with the stop layer underlying the bottom electrode as a conductive barrier layer for the capacitor structure.

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78. A method according to claim 77, wherein the CMP conditions comprise mechanical polishing with a slurry including an oxide abrasive material, and chemical additives for removal of the bottom electrode layer, ferroelectric layer and top electrode layer.

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79 A method according to claim 78, wherein the slurry comprises an oxide abrasive material selected from the group consisting of alumina and ceria.

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80 A method of fabricating an integrated circuit structure including conductive transmission lines, comprising:

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depositing a dielectric material as a component of the structure, and providing pathways therein for the conductive transmission lines,

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depositing a transmission-enhancement material in the pathways,

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depositing conductor material for the conductive transmission lines on the transmission-enhancement material,

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subjecting the structure to chemical mechanical polishing for planarization thereof to define a desired geometry of conductive transmission lines of said conductor material, and

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depositing the transmission-enhancement material over the conductive transmission lines of said conductor material, to encapsulate the conductive transmission lines in said transmission-enhancement material,

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whereby the transmission-enhancement material enhances the inductance and/or capacitance of the conductive transmission lines, relative to a corresponding integrated circuit structure lacking such transmission-enhancement material.

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81. A method according to claim 80, wherein the transmission-enhancement material comprises a high magnetic permeability material.

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82. A method according to claim 81, wherein said high magnetic permeability material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of MgMn ferrites and MgMnAl ferrites.

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83. A method according to claim 80, wherein the transmission-enhancement material comprises a high permittivity material.

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84. A method according to claim 83, wherein said high permittivity material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of barium strontium titanate, lead zirconium titanate, titanium oxide, and tantalum oxide.

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85. An integrated circuit structure including conductive transmission lines encapsulated in a transmission-enhancement material selected from the group consisting of high magnetic permeability materials and high permittivity materials.

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86. An integrated circuit structure according to claim 85, wherein said transmission-enhancement material comprises a high magnetic permeability material selected from the group consisting of MgMn ferrites and MgMnAl ferrites.

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87. An integrated circuit structure according to claim 85, wherein said transmission-enhancement material comprises a high permittivity material selected from the group consisting of barium strontium titanate, lead zirconium titanate, titanium oxide, and tantalum oxide.

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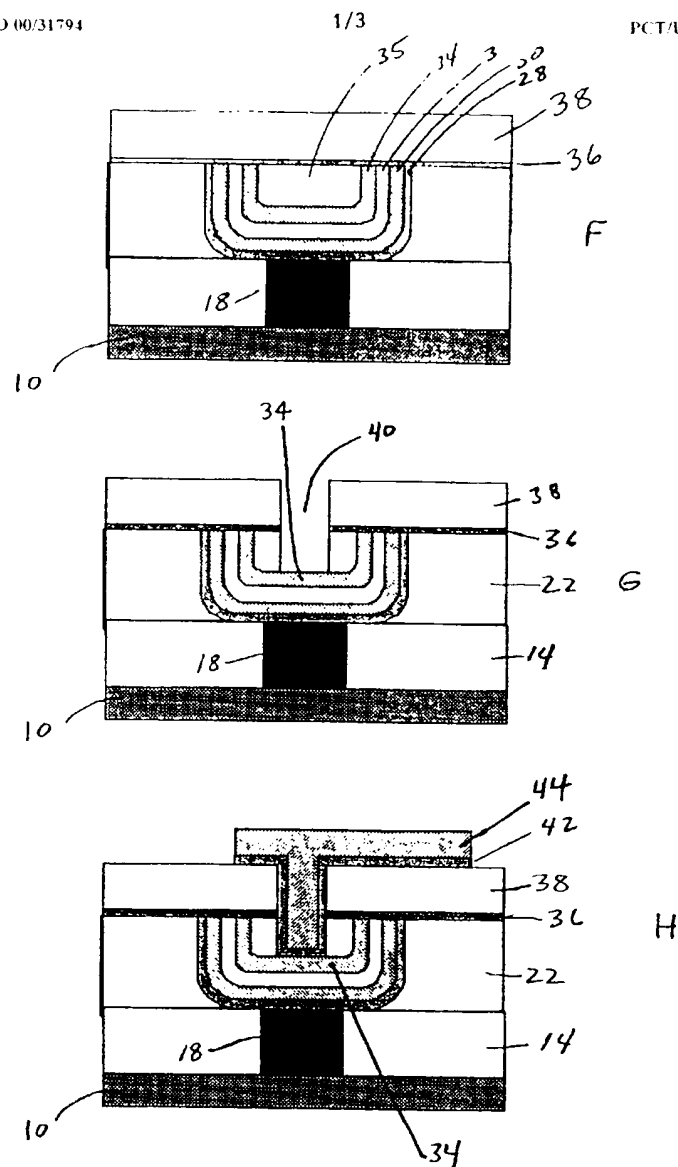


Figure 1

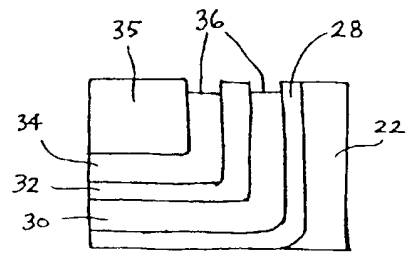


Figure 2A

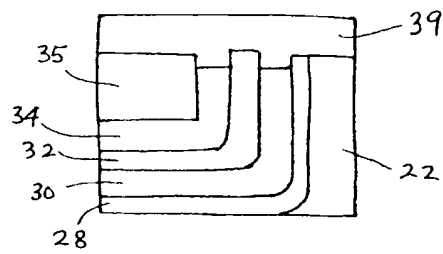


Figure 2B

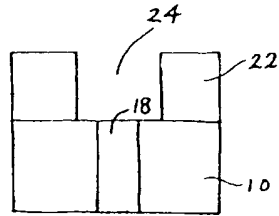


Figure 3A

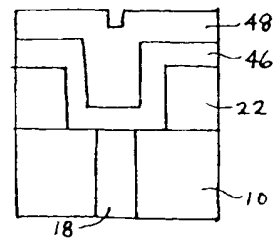


Figure 3B

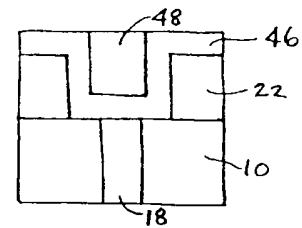


Figure 3C

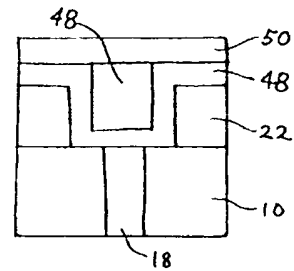


Figure 3D

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/27754

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(6) H01L 21/8242, 21/4763 US CL. Please See Extra Sheet. According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC*																									
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 438/3, 243, 244, 633, 634; 257/295, 301, 302, 664, 752 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)																									
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT																									
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.																							
X, P ----- Y, P Y A	US 5,976,928 A (KIRLIN et al) 02 November 1999 (02.11.99), col. 10 lines 5-61, col. 11 lines 28-61. US 5,363,550 A (AITKEN et al) 15 November 1994 (15.11.94), col. 3 lines 29-50, col. 4 lines 5-55. US 5,589,845 (YANDROFSKI et al) 31 December 1996 (31.12.96).	1-79 ----- 80-88 80-88 80-88																							
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.																									
<table border="0"><tr><td>* Special categories of cited documents:</td><td>* T</td><td>later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td></tr><tr><td>* A</td><td>document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td><td>* X</td><td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td></tr><tr><td>* E</td><td>earlier document published on or after the international filing date</td><td>* Y</td><td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td></tr><tr><td>* L</td><td>documents which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td><td>* &</td><td>document member of the same patent family</td></tr><tr><td>* O</td><td>document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>* P</td><td>document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			* Special categories of cited documents:	* T	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	* A	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	* X	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	* E	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	* Y	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	* L	documents which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	* &	document member of the same patent family	* O	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means			* P	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
* Special categories of cited documents:	* T	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention																							
* A	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	* X	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone																						
* E	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	* Y	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art																						
* L	documents which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	* &	document member of the same patent family																						
* O	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means																								
* P	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed																								
Date of the actual completion of the international search 03 MARCH 2000		Date of mailing of the international search report 04 APR 2000																							
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer TUAN QUACH Telephone No. (703) 308-0956																							

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)(July 1992)*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/27754

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER US CL. :

438/3, 243, 244, 633, 634; 257/295, 301, 302, 664, 752